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ABSTRACT

This book is designed to help educators move from a system that measures students against students to one that values mastery of central concepts and skills, striving for proficiency in publicly acknowledged standards of academic performance. It aims to connect the operative parts of standards-based education (standards, assessment, curriculum, and instruction) in order to ensure the success of students and schools. The book is a companion to two other books, "Front-End Alignment" (Ruth Mitchell) and "Learning in Overdrive" (Ruth Mitchell and Marilyn Crawford). Together, the books are intended to help districts and schools build a standards-based system with a focus on professional development as the key to delivering quality and equity. Three parts include: (1) "Linking Standards to Assessments" (e.g., make standards meaningful, few, and clear, and design a district assessment plan); (2) "Standards and Assessments Linked to Curriculum and Instruction" (e.g., take an inventory of school practices and tasks, use replacement units to improve classroom instruction, and design a curriculum matrix); and (3) "In High Gear" (e.g., monitor the quality of teaching and learning, use resources wisely, and involve parents and community). (Contains 36 bibliographic references.) (SM)

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